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11 May 1988

JUDGE:

You will be receiving an honorary degree from Rockhurst College on Sunday, 15 May, 1988. You have been asked to make short remarks (2 - 3 minutes) after receiving the degree.

In preparing your remarks, we reviewed what you had said at previous commencement exercises, and incorporated material that we thought would best suit this occasion.

Your proposed remarks are attached.

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Bill Baker

Attachment:
As Stated

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PROPOSED REMARKS

BY

WILLIAM H. WEBSTER

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

BEFORE THE

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES AT ROCKHURST COLLEGE

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

MAY 15, 1988

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THANK YOU VERY MUCH. I AM PLEASED TO BE BACK HOME IN MISSOURI, AND I AM DEEPLY GRATIFIED THAT YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO MAKE ME AN HONORARY ALUMNUS OF ROCKHURST COLLEGE. THOSE OF YOU GRADUATING FROM ROCKHURST TODAY HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE EXPERIENCES AT A SMALLER COLLEGE, TO LEARN FROM AND BE CHALLENGED BY GIFTED FACULTY MEMBERS, AND TO MAKE FRIENDS THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME WHEREVER YOU WILL GO.

I GRADUATED FROM A SMALL COLLEGE IN MASSACHUSETTS YEARS AGO, AND THE SPEAKER, I RECALL, WAS GENERAL GEORGE C. MARSHALL. I HAVE TO CONFESS TO YOU THAT I CAN'T REMEMBER A WORD HE SAID. MY REMARKS OF APPRECIATION TODAY, SHORT AS I PROMISE THEY WILL BE, MAY NOT RING LOUD OR LONG IN YOUR EARS, BUT AT LEAST I WILL HAVE THE PLEASURE OF VISITING WITH YOU.

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I HAVE FOUND THAT WHATEVER YOUR ROLE IN LIFE, AND VIRTUALLY ALL AVENUES ARE NOW OPEN TO YOU, THE KEY IS PARTICIPATION -- BEING PART OF A SOLUTION, WHETHER AT THE SCHOOL BOARD LEVEL, OR THE CITY, COUNTY, STATE, OR NATIONAL LEVEL. IT IS THE WILLINGNESS AND ENTHUSIASM TO SERVE THAT BRINGS FORTH THE BEST WITHIN US.

I HAVE SPENT MUCH OF MY ADULT LIFE IN PUBLIC SERVICE, THOUGH I STILL LIKE TO THINK OF MYSELF AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN ON LOAN. I HAVE FOUND THAT IT REALLY DOES NOT MATTER WHETHER YOU ARE ASKED TO SERVE IN GOVERNMENT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL. I NEVER EXPECTED TO BE DOING THAT, AND I WAS HAPPY DOING THE THINGS I WAS DOING. COMMUNITY IS THE IMPORTANT THING -- TO PARTICIPATE IN YOUR COMMUNITY. PUBLIC SERVICE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL IS NOTHING MORE THAN AN EXTENSION OF THE MANY KINDS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE THAT FORM THE FABRIC OF NEIGHBORHOODS, CITIES, AND COUNTIES THROUGHOUT THIS COUNTRY.

SOME YEARS AGO, MY SON AND I WERE ENGAGED IN EXPLORING A SERIES OF MINING CLAIMS IN COLORADO. OUR ESCORTS WERE MEMBERS OF THE ROCKY

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MOUNTAIN BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY, WHO WERE CONDUCTING ALPINE TESTS TO HELP OUR SPACE SCIENTISTS. BECAUSE IT WAS INACCESSIBLE ANY OTHER WAY, WE WENT BY HORSEBACK. IT REALLY WAS A MAGNIFICENT SCENE. I LOOKED OUT AT THE MOUNTAIN SCENES AND DOWN AT THE RAVINES AND WAS TREMENDOUSLY IMPRESSED. BUT ALL THE TIME I WAS LOOKING OUT AT THESE VISTAS, MY ESCORTS FROM THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY WERE LOOKING DOWN AND POINTING OUT THE LITTLE INDIAN PAINTBRUSH FLOWERS, THE LITTLE ALPINE GROUSE AND THE SMALL-WINGED GRASSHOPPER THAT WERE INDIGENOUS TO THAT HIGH ALTITUDE AND WHICH TO THEM WERE JUST AS WONDERFUL AND JUST AS IMPORTANT AS ALL THOSE MOUNTAIN PEAKS AND VALLEYS WERE TO ME.

I THINK THE POINT IS THIS, AND IT CAME THROUGH TO ME THEN AND HAS MANY TIMES SINCE, THAT WHETHER YOU WOULD FOCUS UPON THE MOUNTAIN OR EXPLORE THE MICRO-WONDERS OF THE EARTH, THE IMPORTANT THING IS NOT WHERE WE FOCUS BUT HOW AND THE COMMITMENT THAT WE BRING TO IT.

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OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES, WHO LOVED THIS COUNTRY PASSIONATELY AND SERVED AS ONE OF ITS GREATEST JUSTICES, SUMMED IT UP THIS WAY: "WHETHER A MAN ACCEPTS FROM FORTUNE HER SPADE AND WILL LOOK DOWNWARD AND DIG, OR FROM ASPIRATION HER AXE AND CORD, AND WILL SCALE THE ICE, THE ONE AND ONLY SUCCESS WHICH IS HIS TO COMMAND IS TO BRING TO HIS WORK A MIGHTY HEART." IT IS IN PUTTING YOUR EFFORT WHERE YOUR HEART IS THAT YOU CAN MAKE THE GREATEST CONTRIBUTION.

I HOPE THAT YOUR ENTHUSIASM, YOUR ABILITY, YOUR INTELLIGENCE, AND YOUR DEDICATION WILL BE SHARED, AT LEAST IN PART, WITH YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS WHO SEEK TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE COMMUNITIES IN WHICH YOU CHOOSE TO LIVE.

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24 March 1988

JUDGE:

RE: Invitation to Receive an Honorary Degree
Rockhurst College, Kansas City, Missouri
Commencement exercises to be held in
Independence, Missouri
Sunday, 15 May 1988

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Rockhurst College, president of the college, Father Robert F. Weiss, has invited you to receive an honorary degree from Rockhurst College on Sunday, 15 May at 10:00 am. Since it has been a tradition at Rockhurst not to have a formal commencement address, you are asked to give two to three minutes of informal remarks. Approximately 500 students will be graduating, and you would receive your degree at the graduation ceremonies. According to the college, you were selected as a candidate for an honorary degree due to "the personal integrity with which you served as a federal judge and a leader of our country's law enforcement and intelligence gathering communities." Honorary alumni of the college are John F. Kennedy, Harry S. Truman, Arthur Burns, Senator John Danforth, and Walter Cronkite.

Rockhurst College, established in 1910, is affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church (Society of Jesus), and offers undergraduate programs in business, education, health fields and arts and sciences. Approximately 75% of their 3000 student body are Catholic, 20% protestant, and 10% are members of minority groups. The college has a $13 million annual budget and is located on the 25-acre campus in a residential area of Kansas City. (See opposite for further background information.)

Since you have an interest in Missouri and the other recipients of the honorary degree are prestigious individuals, you may wish to accept this invitation. However, looking at your busy schedule, and if it were a staff decision, I would recommend that you decline. I have attached both a letter of accept and a letter of decline for your signature.

Bill Baker

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Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D.C. 20505

April 15, 1988

The Reverend Robert F. Weiss, S.J.
President
Rockhurst College
5225 Troost
Kansas City, Missouri 64110

Dear Father Weiss:

My office has already communicated to the College my acceptance of your invitation to receive an honorary degree on Sunday, May 15th, at 10:00 a.m. A very tight schedule required a delayed answer until now. I hope you will understand. I am deeply honored to be selected for this award and I look forward to joining the distinguished list of honorary alumni of the College.

As time approaches, a member of my staff will be in touch with your office concerning the arrangements.

With warm best wishes and sincere appreciation,

Sincerely yours,

William H. Webster

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Kansas City's Jesuit College

Office of the President

February 11, 1988

Mr. William Webster
Director, CIA
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Webster:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Rockhurst College, as well as our students, faculty and administration, it is a particular privilege for me to invite you to receive an honorary degree at our commencement exercises on Sunday, May 15, 1988. The personal integrity with which you have served our nation and its citizens as a federal judge and as a leader of our country's law enforcement and intelligence gathering communities is an example of personal qualities which we hold up to the Rockhurst community as worthy of invitation. Your devotion to public service at a time when such a career is not popular makes you an appropriate recipient of a Rockhurst honorary degree.

The members of our 68th Rockhurst College graduating class would be especially proud to have you receive an honorary degree as approximately 500 of them receive their own degrees. It has been our custom at Rockhurst College to confer honorary degrees rather sparingly, but we are proud to include among our honorary alumni a number of distinguished Americans such as John F. Kennedy, Harry S. Truman, Arthur Burns, John Danforth, and Walter Cronkite. It would certainly be a pleasure to add your name to that list.

The commencement exercises begin at 10 a.m. on Sunday, May 15, 1988, at the R.L.D.S. auditorium in Independence, Missouri. It has been a long tradition at Rockhurst not to have a formal commencement address. Therefore, it would not be necessary for you to prepare a speech. However, we do appreciate a two or three minute response from honorary degree recipients after the conferral of the degree. We do hope very much that you will be able to be with us on this occasion. Of course, we will be in touch with you later about the details. We would appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Weiss, S.J.

Robert F. Weiss, S.J.
President

RFW:th

5225 Troost, Kansas City, Missouri 64110

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6 April 1988

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JUDGE:

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RE: Invitation to Receive an Honorary Degree
Rockhurst College, Kansas City, Missouri
Commencement exercises to be held in
Independence, Missouri
Sunday, 15 May 1988

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We received a call from Rockhurst College asking about their invitation to you to be an honorary degree recipient at their commencement exercises on Sunday, 15 May in Independence, Missouri. Their commencement program is at the printers and cannot be completed until they hear from you.

I have attached opposite a copy of our original recommendation to you which included both a letter of accept and a letter of decline.

[redacted]
Bill Baker

Acceptance letter sent 4/15/88 mgp

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Executive Secretary

24 February 1988
Date

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